

American Legion Auxiliary

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families

TO: National Officers, National Executive Committee, National Chairs, Department

Presidents, Department Secretaries/Executive Directors, Past National Presidents,

CC: National Headquarters Staff, Convention Parliamentarian Chris Dickey

FROM: Office of the National Secretary

DATE: August 5, 2025

SUBJECT: Proposed amendments and resolutions to the American Legion Auxiliary national governing documents that will come before the 2025 National Convention delegates In compliance with ALA National Constitution Article VII. Amendments and ALA National Bylaws Article XIII. Amendments, this memorandum serves as official notice twenty days prior to national convention of the proposed amendments to the American Legion Auxiliary National Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules that will be considered at the 2025 National Convention in Tampa, Florida. Departments are responsible for distributing the proposed amendments to their delegates to the National Convention.

Attached is a list of the amendments and resolutions that will come before the National Convention body, followed by each proposal.

After the delegate registration deadline on August 11, all National Convention delegates with valid emails in the ALA online registration system will receive an electronic copy of the documents. They will also be posted in MyAuxiliary on the American Legion Auxiliary National website.

The Constitution & Bylaws Pre-Convention Meeting is open to all delegates to ask clarifying questions about the proposed amendments. A clarifying question pertains to the *meaning* of the wording in a proposal. There is to be no debate on the merits of, or opinions about, the proposals by the delegates during the Pre-Convention Meeting. Debate is reserved for the convention floor on Tuesday. National Convention Parliamentarian Chris Dickey will be present at the C&B Pre-Convention Meeting along with the Constitution & Bylaws Committee and national officers. The Constitution & Bylaws Pre-Convention Meeting is currently scheduled for Saturday, August 23, 2025 at the Tampa Convention Center, Central Hall. Please check updated schedules on site for any time/location updates.

Thank you for being a part of the corporate responsibilities in the governance of the American Legion Auxiliary as a 501 (c) 19 tax-exempt organization incorporated in the state of Indiana.

American Legion Auxiliary

National Convention 2025

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS AND RESOLUTIONS

		AMENDMENT(S) SUBJECT	PRESENT AT	SUBMITTED BY
Proposed Amendment	1	Constitution, Article III, Eligibility Proposal: clarify how one becomes a member of the ALA, highlight authority. No substantive changes.	CONVENTION BODY	Natl C&B Committee
Proposed Amendment	2	Constitution, Article IV, National Executive Committee, Section 4 Proposal: omitting redundant wording in section 4 that also appears in section 2. No substantive changes.	CONVENTION BODY	Natl C&B Committee
Proposed Amendment	3	Constitution, Article VI, National Convention, Section 1 Proposal: adding "Force Majure" language to allow for continued business and election of officers in times of emergency.	CONVENTION BODY	Natl C&B Committee
Proposed Amendment	4	Bylaws, Article I, Organization, Sect. 3 Proposal: national organization has authority to cancel department charters therefore it is possible for a state to not have a department. Added wording for clarification. No substantive changes.	CONVENTION BODY	Natl C&B Committee
Proposed Amendment	5	Bylaws, Article I, Organization, Sect. 4 & 5 Proposal: omitting sections 4 and 5 as purpose of intermediate bodies already exists in Article VIII on Departments. No substantive changes.	CONVENTION BODY	Natl C&B Committee
Proposed Amendment	6	Bylaws, Article III, Duties of Officers, Sect. 5, National Secretary Proposal: clarify duties and responsibilities of the National Secretary to match current practice.	CONVENTION BODY	Natl C&B Committee
Proposed Amendment	7	Bylaws, Article IV, National Executive Committee, Section 2 Proposal: rearranged information to present uninterrupted section on NEC authorities followed by Executive Committee to the NEC responsibilities.	CONVENTION BODY	Natl C&B Committee
Proposed Amendment	8	Bylaws, Article VIII, Department Organization Proposal: DEC has authority to discipline members of Department HQ unit.	CONVENTION BODY	Natl C&B Committee

Proposed	Bylaws, Article X, Finance, Section 2 Proposal: omit duplicate language.	CONVENTION	Natl C&B
Amendment 9		BODY	Committee
Proposed Amendment 1	Bylaws, Article X, Finance, Section 4, Salaried Officers Proposal: update language to reflect current practice.	CONVENTION BODY	Natl C&B Committee
Proposed Amendment 1	Bylaws, Article XI, Discipline Proposal: to capture all references to discipline in one section with clearer explanations and wording. No substantive changes.	CONVENTION BODY	Natl C&B Committee
Proposed	Bylaws, Article XI, Cancellation of Charter Proposal: delineate roles of units, departments and national as they pertain to charter cancellations. Removes language on discipline as that information has been absorbed into new Bylaw XI, Discipline. Clarification only. No substantive changes.	CONVENTION	Natl C&B
Amendment 1		BODY	Committee
Proposed	Bylaws, Article IX, Unit Organization Proposal: omitted redundant wording. Moved language from Standing Rules on units into Bylaws. No substantive changes.	CONVENTION	Natl C&B
Amendment 1		BODY	Committee
Proposed Amendment 1	Bylaws, Article IV, NEC, Section 2 Standing Rules V, National Executive Committee Proposal: change composition of Executive Committee of the NEC.	CONVENTION BODY	Executive Committee to the NEC & NEC
Proposed Amendment 15	Standing Rules, VII. Committees, Long Range Strategic Planning Committee Proposal: change terms, composition and require the committee to be appointed each administrative year.	Convention Body	Pam Ray, National Vice President, Dr. Coral Grout, National VA&R Chair, Dr. Lisa Chaplin, National Children & Youth Chair, Linda Boone, National Secretary
Proposed	Resolution: Membership Eligibility Proposal: request TAL change eligibility language to align with gender neutral terms established with the addition of "spouses." For example: Mothers = Parents	CONVENTION	Department of
Resolution 1		BODY	Vermont

		Grandmothers = Grandparents Sisters = Siblings		
Proposed Resolution 2	2	Resolution: Poppy Fund Expansion Proposal: request that TAL expand Poppy Fund Eligibility to include National Guard and Reserve and families	CONVENTION BODY	ALA National Poppy Committee
Proposed Resolution 3	3	Resolution: Girls State Leaders Proposal: to recognize the work and dedication of Girls State Leaders	CONVENTION BODY	Valerie Hardy, 2025 Girls Nation Chair

Amendments for consideration by the Convention delegates are presented in full on the following pages

Proposed Amendment #1. National Constitut	ion Article III. Eligibility	
Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
ARTICLE III Eligibility	ARTICLE III Eligibility MEMBERSHIP	ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP
Section 1. Eligibility for membership in the American Legion Auxiliary is determined by The American Legion. The eligibility requirements from The American Legion governing documents shall be provided as a footnote to this Constitution for information purposes and shall be updated as appropriate.1 Section 2. There shall be two (2) classes of	Section 1. Eligibility for membership in the American Legion Auxiliary is determined by The American Legion. The eligibility requirements from The American Legion governing documents shall be provided as a footnote to this Constitution for information purposes and shall be updated as appropriate.1 Section 2. There shall be two (2) classes of	Section 1. Eligibility for membership in the American Legion Auxiliary is determined by The American Legion. The eligibility requirements from The American Legion governing documents shall be provided as a footnote to this Constitution for information purposes and shall be updated as appropriate. Section 2. There shall be two (2) classes of
membership, Senior and Junior. (a) Senior membership shall be composed of members aged eighteen (18) and older; provided, however, a member eligible under Section 1 of this article and who is under the age of eighteen (18) years and married shall be classified as a Senior member.	membership, Senior and Junior. (a) Senior membership shall be composed of members aged eighteen (18) and older; provided, however, a member eligible under Section 1 of this article and who is under the age of eighteen (18) years and married shall be classified as a Senior member.	membership, Senior and Junior. (a) Senior membership shall be composed of members aged eighteen (18) and older; provided, however, a member eligible under Section 1 of this article and who is under the age of eighteen (18) years and married shall be classified as a Senior member.
(b) Junior membership shall be composed of members under the age of eighteen (18) years, whose activities shall be supervised by the Senior membership. Upon reaching the age of eighteen years, Junior members shall automatically be admitted into Senior membership with full privileges.	(b) Junior membership shall be composed of members under the age of eighteen (18) years, whose activities shall be supervised by the Senior membership. Upon reaching the age of eighteen years, Junior members shall automatically be admitted into Senior membership with full privileges.	(b) Junior membership shall be composed of members under the age of eighteen (18) years, whose activities shall be supervised by the Senior membership. Upon reaching the age of eighteen years, Junior members shall automatically be admitted into Senior membership with full privileges.
(c) Dues of both classes shall be paid annually or for life	(c) Dues of both classes shall be paid annually or for life	(c) Dues of both classes shall be paid annually or for life

Section 3. A member whose dues are paid up-to-date and who is not subject to suspension or expulsion shall be considered in good standing and the member shall be entitled to full membership rights, privileges, and benefits in the Unit.

Section 4. Each unit of the ALA, except department headquarters units, has the authority to decide its membership and

Section 5. No person who is a member of an organization which has for its aim the overthrow of the United States Government or who subscribes to the principles of any group opposed to our form of government shall be eligible to become or remain a member of the American Legin Auxiliary.

shall be responsible for verifying eligibility

of perspective members, transfer or new.

Section 6. Membership can only be offered upon an affirmative vote of the unit members.

Section 7. Memberships may be terminated:

- By resignation, any member in good standing may resign from their unit, but no member may resign when in debt to the organization.
- By failure to pay dues

Section 3. A member whose dues are paid upto-date and who is not subject to suspension or expulsion shall be considered in good standing and the member shall be entitled to full membership rights, privileges, and benefits in the Unit.

Section 4. Each unit of the ALA, except department headquarters units, has the authority to decide its membership and shall be responsible for verifying eligibility of perspective members, transfer or new.

Section 5. No person who is a member of an organization which has for its aim the overthrow of the United States Government or who subscribes to the principles of any group opposed to our form of government shall be eligible to become or remain a member of the American Legin Auxiliary.

Section 6. Membership can only be offered upon an affirmative vote of the unit members.

Section 7. Memberships may be terminated:

- By resignation, any member in good standing may resign from their unit, but no member may resign when in debt to the organization.
- By failure to pay dues
- By unit disciplinary action of expulsion

- By unit disciplinary action of expulsion - Any person who has been expelled may reapply to any unit at any future time.	- Any person who has been expelled may reapply to any unit at any future time.
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Rationale: Additional wording to clarify units authority to grant and revoke membership in the ALA. Additional wording to further clarify the ways in which membership in the ALA may be terminated. Included "good standing" definition from Standing Rule XI Units #5. Additional language and wording changes are for clarification and serve only to highlight already established authorities of the unit and rights of the member. No substantive changes.

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
Section 4. The term of office of a National Executive Committee person shall commence immediately following the adjournment of the National Convention next ensuing and shall end at the adjournment of the next succeeding National Convention. The Alternate National Executive Committee person shall serve only in the absence of the National Executive Committee person.	Section 4. The term of office of a National Executive Committee person shall commence immediately following the adjournment of the National Convention next ensuing and shall end at the adjournment of the next succeeding National Convention. The Alternate National Executive Committee person shall serve only in the absence of the National Executive Committee person.	Section 4. The term of office of a National Executive Committee person shall commence immediately following the adjournment of the National Convention next ensuing and shall end at the adjournment of the next succeeding National Convention.

Rationale: Omitting the last sentence of Constitution Article V, Section 4 "The Alternate National Executive Committee person shall serve only in the absence of the National Executive Committee person," as this rule is already stated in Constitution Article V, Section 2. No substantive changes.

Proposed Amendment #3. National Constitution Article VI. National Convention, Section 1				
Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read		
Section 1. The American Legion Auxiliary National Convention shall be held annually at the same time and place as the convention of The American Legion for the purpose of electing officers, receiving reports, and transacting such other business as shall properly come before it.	Section 1. The American Legion Auxiliary National Convention shall be held annually at the same time and place as the convention of The American Legion – except for when it is determined undesirable due to cases of emergency or natural disasters - for the purpose of electing officers, receiving reports, and transacting such other business as shall properly come before it.	Section 1. The American Legion Auxiliary National Convention shall be held annually a the same time and place as the convention of The American Legion – except for when it is determined undesirable due to cases of emergency or natural disasters - for the purpose of electing officers, receiving report and transacting such other business as shall properly come before it.		

Rationale: Often referred to as a "Force Majure" clause in a contract, this language frees the American Legion Auxiliary from obligation when an extraordinary event or circumstance beyond our control prevents us from fulfilling our obligation. By adding this language, the American Legion Auxiliary will still be able to conduct business and elect national officers if extraordinary events prevent The American Legion from holding a National Convention.

Proposed Amendment #4. National Bylaws Article I. Organization, Section 3				
Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read		
Section 3. There shall be one (1) Department in each state and in the District of Columbia, and there may be one (1) Department in each territory of the United States. The National Executive Committee may establish Departments or Units in the insular and other possessions of the United States and may also establish Units in foreign countries.	Section 3. There shall be no more than one (1) Department in each state and in the District of Columbia, and there may be one (1) Department in each territory of the United States. The National Executive Committee may establish Departments or Units in the insular and other possessions of the United States and may also establish Units in foreign countries.	Section 3. There shall be no more than one (1) Department in each state and in the District of Columbia, and there may be one (1) Department in each territory of the United States. The National Executive Committee may establish Departments or Units in the insular and other possessions of the United States and may also establish Units in foreign countries.		

Rationale: Previous wording required that every state has a department. However, in the National Bylaws, Article XI. Discipline and Cancellation of Charters, Department Charters, Section 1, the NEC has the authority to cancel department charters. This means that the possibility exists for a state to not have an American Legion Auxiliary department. Clarifying this wording now means that in the unlikely event that this occurs, the American Legion Auxiliary will be poised for action if necessary.

Proposed Amendment #5. National Bylaws Ar	ticle 1. Organization, Section 4 and 5	
Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
Section 4. Departments shall have authority to create and charter intermediate bodies between the Units and Department to act as a liaison between such organizations and for the purpose of promoting the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary.	Section 4. Departments shall have authority to create and charter intermediate bodies between the Units and Department to act as a liaison between such organizations and for the purpose of promoting the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary.	
Section 5. The Department Executive Committee shall define the authority of such intermediate groups, but in no event shall such authority invade the prerogatives now vested either in the Unit or Department or National Organization	Section 5. The Department Executive Committee shall define the authority of such intermediate groups, but in no event shall such authority invade the prerogatives now vested either in the Unit or Department or National Organization	

Rationale: Omitting duplicate wording. Previously stated in National Bylaws Article 8, Section 3 Departments. No substantive changes.

Proposed Amendment #6. National Bylaws Article III. Duties of Officers, Section 5, National Secretary				
Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read		

Section 5. National Secretary: It shall be the duty of the National Secretary to record proceedings of the National Executive Committee meetings and the National Organization in convention assembled, to keep all records of the National Organization, and to perform other duties as assigned. It is the specific responsibility of the National Secretary as a corporate officer to maintain constant and continuous control of all trademarks, trade names, patents and copyrights of the American Legion Auxiliary, including, but not limited to, on the recommendation of Counsel General, the hiring and engagement of competent outside legal counsel and others as needed to protect the trade names and trademarks

Section 5. National Secretary: It shall be the duty of the National Secretary to record proceedings and submit official meeting minutes of the National Executive Committee meetings to be retained at National Headquarters.

The national secretary has the responsibility to ensure national convention proceedings are approved by the Minutes Approval Committee and distributed.

The National Secretary serves as the official liaison between the National **Executive Committee and any department** under disciplinary action. The National Secretary is responsible for supplying updates to the National Executive Committee regarding the status of a department's disciplinary action. and the National Organization in convention assembled, to keep all records of the National Organization, and to perform other duties as assigned. It is the specific responsibility of the National Secretary as a corporate officer to be educated on the authorized use of maintain constant and continuous control of all American Legion Auxiliary trademarks, trade names, patents and copyrights. of the American Legion Auxiliary. including, but not limited to, on the. The National Secretary will report issues regarding

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The national secretary has the responsibility to ensure national convention proceedings are approved by the Minutes Approval Committee and distributed.

The National Secretary serves as the official liaison between the National Executive Committee and any department under disciplinary action. The National Secretary is responsible for supplying updates to the National Executive Committee regarding the status of a department's disciplinary action. It is the responsibility of the National Secretary as a corporate officer to be educated on the authorized use of all American Legion Auxiliary trademarks, trade names, patents and copyrights. The National Secretary will report issues regarding trademarks, trade names, patents and copyrights to the National Executive Committee. The National Secretary shall perform other duties as provided in the governing documents or as assigned.

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copyrights to the National Executive	
Committee. The National Secretary shall	
perform other duties as provided in the	
governing documents or as assigned. AND	
THE hiring and engagement of competent	
outside legal counsel and others as needed to	
protect the trade names and trademarks	

Rationale: Edits made so that the responsibilities of the National Secretary match the current practice. Added wording to address convention proceedings, NEC meeting minutes, and duties pertaining to departments placed on probation by the NEC.

Proposed Amendment #7. National Bylaws Article IV. National Executive Committee, Section 2				
Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read		

Section 2. Authority: The National Executive Committee shall adopt the annual budget for the National Organization; adopt policies and standing rules, unless otherwise noted in the National Constitution or these Bylaws; review financial statements and accept the national annual audit; ratify committees; confirm the nomination of the National Secretary and the National Treasurer, confirm committee and other national appointments, and confirm the appointment of officials not otherwise provided for in these Bylaws; levy assessments as needed; ratify the cancellation of charters; receive for filing reports from national subsidiary organizations; and other duties and responsibilities that are the normal function of a corporate board of directors.

There shall be an Executive Committee to the National Executive Committee. The purpose of the Executive Committee shall be:

- 1) to review, research and make recommendations to the NEC on matters requiring NEC action; and
- 2) to address and act on time sensitive matters subject to ratification by the NEC, except those duties reserved for the Executive Committee in the Bylaws Article V.

Section 2. Authority: The National Executive Committee shall adopt the annual budget for the National Organization; adopt policies and standing rules, unless otherwise noted in the National Constitution or these Bylaws; review financial statements and accept the national annual audit; ratify committees; confirm the nomination of the National Secretary and the National Treasurer, confirm committee and other national appointments, and confirm the appointment of officials not otherwise provided for in these Bylaws; address all questions regarding the election, eligibility, and capacity of national officers per the National Standing Rules; address all questions regarding conduct of entities as provided in these bylaws; levy assessments as needed; ratify the cancellation of charters; receive for filing reports from national subsidiary organizations; and other duties and responsibilities that are the normal function of a corporate board of directors.

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. . .

Section 6. Executive Committee to the NEC: There shall be an Executive Committee to the National Executive Committee. The purpose of the Executive Committee shall be:

All questions regarding the election, eligibility, and capacity of national officers shall be referred to and determined by a twothirds vote of the National Executive Committee. The National Executive Committee shall be responsible for establishing the process and procedure for making the determination that a national officer is incompetent, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to discharge the duties of the national office. All questions regarding conduct of a national officer, all National Executive Committee members without regard to voting rights, or a member of a national committee that may be detrimental to the best interests of the American Legion Auxiliary shall be referred to and determined by a two-thirds vote of the National Executive Committee which shall be the final authority thereon. The NEC may suspend the member from all or some duties and rights of national committees and/or national activities pending the disposition of the case. If the National Executive Committee finds a member has violated any provision in the governing documents of the ALA, the National Executive Committee shall impose disciplinary action against the member which may include verbal counseling; written or verbal apology; written or verbal censure; probation with corrective terms; suspension from participation in or exercising voting rights on national committees and/or national activities for a defined period of time in compliance with applicable state laws; or termination of NEC membership, national

2) to address and act on time sensitive matters subject to ratification by the NEC, except those duties reserved for the Executive Committee in the Bylaws Article V.

All questions regarding the election, eligibility, and capacity of national officers shall be referred to and determined by a two-thirds vote of the National Executive Committee.

The National Executive Committee shall be responsible for establishing the process and procedure for making the determination that a national officer is incompetent, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to discharge the duties of the national office.

All questions regarding conduct of a national officer, all National Executive Committee members without regard to voting rights, or a member of a national committee that may be detrimental to the best interests of the American Legion Auxiliary shall be referred to and determined by a two thirds vote of the National Executive Committee which shall be the final authority thereon.

The NEC may suspend the member from all or some duties and rights of national committees and/or national activities pending the disposition of the case. If the National Executive Committee finds a member has

- 1) to review, research and make recommendations to the NEC on matters requiring NEC action; and
- 2) to address and act on time sensitive matters subject to ratification by the NEC, except those duties reserved for the Executive Committee in the Bylaws Article V.

appointment, and/or national elected position as applicable. Once terminated from service on the NEC for cause, a member is ineligible to hold future positions of national leadership. The rules and procedures governing the fulfillment of this section shall be as provided in the Standing Rules.

violated any provision in the governing documents of the ALA, the National **Executive Committee shall impose** disciplinary action against the member which may include verbal counseling; written or verbal apology; written or verbal censure; probation with corrective terms; suspension from participation in or exercising voting rights on national committees and/or national activities for a defined period of time in compliance with applicable state laws; or termination of NEC membership, national appointment, and/or national elected position as applicable. Once terminated from service on the NEC for cause, a member is ineligible to hold future positions of national leadership. The rules and procedures governing the fulfillment of this section shall be as provided in the Standing Rules.

...

(Sections 3-5 remain unedited)

Section 6. Executive Committee to the NEC: There shall be an Executive Committee to the National Executive Committee. The purpose of the Executive Committee shall be:

- 1) to review, research and make recommendations to the NEC on matters requiring NEC action; and
- 2) to address and act on time sensitive matters subject to ratification by the NEC, except those duties reserved for the Executive Committee in the Bylaws Article V.

Rationale:

First edit: "Address all questions regarding the election, eligibility, and capacity of national officers per the National Standing Rules; address all questions regarding conduct of entities as provided in these bylaws;" is an authority which currently resides with the NEC – this is not a new or additional authority. This edit simply moves this authority to the beginning of Section 2 giving it a more prominent place.

Second edit: addresses language regarding the Executive Committee to the NEC. In the current wording, this language appears in the middle of Section 2. We've moved this wording to the end so that Section 2 outlines all of the NEC's authorities and responsibilities first, then outlines the purpose and authority of the Executive Committee to the NEC. This wording will be moved to the end of Section 2 and appears in the far right column as new #6.

Third edit: the final edits omit language regarding process of executing certain NEC authorities as those specifics already live in either the Standing Rules, the Code of Ethical Conduct, Code of Ethical Conduct Policy or in the newly proposed National Bylaw XI. Discipline.

Edits are in an attempt for clarification and intuitive presentation of information. No substantive changes.

Proposed Amendment #8. National Bylaws Article VIII. Department Organization						
Section 1. Departments shall be chartered by the National Executive Committee and shall be comprised of the Units within their respective areas. A minimum of five hundred (500) adult members shall be required to issue a Department charter. Each Department charter shall be signed by the National President and the National Secretary. Section 2. Each Department shall have the following department officers: Department President, Department Vice President(S), Department Secretary, Department Secretary, Treasurer), National Executive Committee person, an Alternate National Executive Committee person, and may have a chaplain, historian, and such other officers as the governing documents of the Department shall have authority to create intermediate bodies between the Units and Department to act as a liaison between such organizations and for the purpose of promoting the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary Anational Constitution and/or Bylaws, rules and policies. Section 2. Each Department Secretary, Section 3. Department Secretary. Section 4. Each Department shall be comprised of the Units within their respective areas. A minimum of five hundred (500) adult members shall be required to issue a Department charter. Each Department shall have a Department shall have a Department shall be signed by the National President and the National Secretary. Section 3. Departments shall have authority to create intermediate bodies between the Units and Department to act as a liaison between such organizations and for the purpose of promoting the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary Are separate entities that operate independently as affiliates of the American Legion Auxiliary Are separate entities that operational tusinal begin Auxiliary Are separate entities that operation to the American Legion Auxiliary Auxiliary Are separate entities that operational the American Le	Proposed Amendment #8. National Bylaws A	Proposed Amendment #8. National Bylaws Article VIII. Department Organization				
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Each Department shall have a Department governing board, hereafter referred to in these national governing documents as the Department Executive Committee.

Department Executive Committees shall have the authority to set forth responsibilities and limits of all intermediate bodies. In no event shall these responsibilities established by the Department Executive Committee usurp the prerogatives of the National Organization, Departments, and Units.

Section 4. All persons handling funds of the Department shall be bonded by a reputable, solvent bonding and surety company; or shall be covered by fidelity-crime insurance in an adequate amount as determined by the Department Audit Committee, Department Finance Committee, and/or Department Executive Committee.

Department Treasurer (or Department Secretary-Treasurer), National Executive Committee person, an Alternate National Executive Committee person, and may have a chaplain, historian, and such other officers as the governing documents of the Department may prescribe. If a department officer is a member of the ALA, they shall be in good standing in their unit.

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Section 6: Departments shall have a Department Headquarters Unit. The Department Headquarters Unit will not have officers nor governing documents. Department Treasurer (or Department Secretary-Treasurer), National Executive Committee person, an Alternate National Executive Committee person, and may have a chaplain, historian, and such other officers as the governing documents of the Department may prescribe. If a department officer is a member of the ALA, they shall be in good standing in their unit.

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Section 6: Departments shall have a Department Headquarters Unit. The Department Headquarters Unit will not have officers nor governing documents. The Department Executive Committee shall have the authority to discipline members of the Department Headquarters Unit.

Proposed by: National Constitution & Bylaws

Committee Rationale: Substantive Changes

New Section 6: Prior to this proposal, the governing documents did not address Department HQ units, therefore there was no way to discipline a member of a Department HQ unit. The proposal, specifically new Section 6, provides that the DEC has disciplinary authority over members of a Department HQ unit.

Non-Substantive Changes

New section 1 pulled directly from Standing Rule X, #1 (pg 49). This section establishes what a dept is and therefore is better suited to be in the bylaws whereas info on "procedures for a dept" would be in the SRS.

The original section three pertained to intermediate bodies AND departments' requirement to establish a governing board referred to as the DEC. New #3 pertains only to departments requirement to establish a governing board and the wording pertaining to intermediate bodies is moved to be new Section 5.

Proposed Amendment #9 National Bylaws Article X. Finance, Section 2				
Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read		
Section 2. The fiduciary responsibility of the National Executive Committee shall include adoption of the National Organization's budget, and review and acceptance of financial reports and the annual audit.	Section 2. The fiduciary responsibility of the National Executive Committee shall include adoption of the National Organization's budget, and review and acceptance of financial reports and the annual audit.			

Rationale: Duplication. Currently listed in National Bylaws Article 4, Section 2

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
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Section 4. With the exception of the National President, National Vice President, National Secretary and National Treasurer, there shall be no salaried officers. Necessary expenses incurred by national officers, National Executive Committee persons and chairmen of national committees in the exercise of their duties to the American Legion Auxiliary may be paid from the national treasury when authorized by the national budget or authorized by the National President and approved by the National Executive Committee.	Section 4. With the exception of the National President and National Vice President, National Secretary and National Treasurer there shall be no salaried officers. Necessary expenses incurred by national officers, National Executive Committee persons and chairmen of national committees in the exercise of their duties to the American Legion Auxiliary may be paid from the national treasury when authorized by the national budget or authorized by the National President and approved by the National Executive Committee.	Section 4. With the exception of the National President and National Vice President, there shall be no salaried officers. Necessary expenses incurred by national officers, National Executive Committee persons and chairmen of national committees in the exercise of their duties to the American Legion Auxiliary may be paid from the national treasury when authorized by the national budget or authorized by the National President and approved by the National Executive Committee.

Rationale: Updated language reflects current practice.

Proposed Amendment #11. National Bylaws New Article XI. Discipline				
Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read		
Current wording	Article XI. Discipline Section 1. Unit Member Discipline a) Each unit, except for department headquarter units, has the responsibility for the discipline of its members for any good and sufficient cause. All discipline must be imposed in accordance with the principle of fundamental fairness, which includes notice and an opportunity to be heard. Units shall adopt procedures for member discipline. Disciplinary actions may include any of the following: • Warning: A formal written statement, delivered to the member, outlining the misconduct and expectations for future behavior. • Probation: Membership is retained under specific terms and conditions for improvement for a specified period no longer than a year. • Suspension: Temporary loss	Article XI. Discipline Section 1. Unit Member Discipline a) Each unit, except for department headquarter units, has the responsibility for the discipline of its members for any good and sufficient cause. All discipline must be imposed in accordance with the principle of fundamental fairness, which includes notice and an opportunity to be heard. Units shall adopt procedures for member discipline. Disciplinary actions may include any of the following: • Warning: A formal written statement, delivered to the member, outlining the misconduct and expectations for future behavior. • Probation: Membership is retained under specific terms and conditions for improvement for a specified period no longer than a year. • Suspension: Temporary loss of any or all membership rights and privileges for a		
	of any or all membership	6 t8		

- rights and privileges for a specified period no longer than a year.
- Expulsion: loss of membership for severe or repeated violations.
- b) A member disciplined by the member's unit may appeal the unit's disciplinary action in writing to the Department Executive Committee. The Department Executive Committee shall adopt procedures to handle such appeals.

Section 2. Department Headquarter Unit Member Discipline

- a) The department executive committee has the responsibility for the discipline of its headquarter unit members for any good and sufficient cause. All discipline must be imposed in accordance with the principle of fundamental fairness, which includes notice and an opportunity to be heard.

 Department Executive Committees shall adopt procedures for member discipline. Disciplinary actions may include any of the following:
 - Warning: A formal written statement, delivered to the

- specified period no longer than a year.
- Expulsion: loss of membership for severe or repeated violations.
- b) A member disciplined by the member's unit may appeal the unit's disciplinary action in writing to the Department Executive Committee. The Department Executive Committee shall adopt procedures to handle such appeals.

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- Probation: Membership is retained under specific terms and conditions for improvement for no more than one year.
- Suspension: Temporary loss of any or all membership rights and privileges for a specified period no longer than a year.
- Expulsion: loss of membership for severe or repeated violations.
- b) A member disciplined under this section may appeal the disciplinary action to the Department Convention Delegates. The Department Convention Delegates shall adopt procedures to handle such appeals.

Section 3. Unit discipline

a) Units attached to departments may be disciplined by their Department Executive Committee for any good and sufficient cause.

- misconduct and expectations for future behavior.
- Probation: Membership is retained under specific terms and conditions for improvement for no more than one year.
- Suspension: Temporary loss of any or all membership rights and privileges for a specified period no longer than a year.
- Expulsion: loss of membership for severe or repeated violations.
- b) A member disciplined under this section may appeal the disciplinary action to the Department Convention Delegates. The Department Convention Delegates shall adopt procedures to handle such appeals.

Section 3. Unit discipline

- a) Units attached to departments may be disciplined by their Department Executive Committee for any good and sufficient cause.
- b) Foreign Units not attached to a department may be disciplined by the National Executive Committee for any good and sufficient cause.

- b) Foreign Units not attached to a department may be disciplined by the National Executive Committee for any good and sufficient cause. Disciplinary actions by the National Executive Committee are final.
- c) All such disciplinary actions must be imposed in accordance with the principle of fundamental fairness, which includes notice and the opportunity to be heard. The department executive committee shall permanently keep a record of all disciplinary actions including communications, or meetings concerning the disciplined unit Disciplinary actions may include any of the following:
 - Warning: A formal written statement, delivered to the member, outlining the misconduct and expectations for future behavior.
 - Probation: Unit charter is retained under specific terms and conditions for improvement for a specified period no longer than a year.

- Disciplinary actions by the National Executive Committee are final.
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 - Warning: A formal written statement, delivered to the member, outlining the misconduct and expectations for future behavior.
 - Probation: Unit charter is retained under specific terms and conditions for improvement for a specified period no longer than a year.
 - Suspension: Temporary loss of any or all unit rights and privileges for a specified period no longer than a year.
 - Cancellation of charter: The Department Executive Committee may submit a

- Suspension: Temporary loss of any or all unit rights and privileges for a specified period no longer than a year.
- Cancellation of charter:
 The Department Executive
 Committee may submit a
 request to the NEC to
 cancel the charter of a unit
 for severe or repeated
 violations.
- d) A unit who has been disciplined by its department executive committee may appeal the disciplinary action to the national executive committee by following the procedures in the Standing rules.
- e) The national executive committee shall have the authority to overturn, modify, or uphold the disciplinary action of the department. The national secretary shall inform both the unit and the department executive committee of the decision of the national executive committee, whose decision shall be final.

Section 4. Department discipline.

- request to the NEC to cancel the charter of a unit for severe or repeated violations.
- d) A unit who has been disciplined by its department executive committee may appeal the disciplinary action to the national executive committee by following the procedures in the Standing rules.
- e) The national executive committee shall have the authority to overturn, modify, or uphold the disciplinary action of the department. The national secretary shall inform both the unit and the department executive committee of the decision of the national executive committee, whose decision shall be final.

Section 4. Department discipline.

- a) The NEC may discipline a department for: denying a member or a unit the rights of fundamental fairness, which shall include notice and a right to be heard; or for failure of the department leadership to adhere to their governing documents.
- b) If the national executive committee determines that the department violated the rights of a member,

- a) The NEC may discipline a department for: denying a member or a unit the rights of fundamental fairness, which shall include notice and a right to be heard; or for failure of the department leadership to adhere to their governing documents.
- b) If the national executive committee determines that the department violated the rights of a member, usurped the authority of a unit or department leadership failed to adhere to department governing documents, the national executive committee may impose disciplinary action upon the department.

 Disciplinary actions may include any of the following:
 - Warning: A formal written statement, delivered to the department, outlining the misconduct and expectations for future behavior.
 - Probation: Department charter is retained under specific terms and conditions for improvement for a specified period no longer than a year.

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 - Warning: A formal written statement, delivered to the department, outlining the misconduct and expectations for future behavior.
 - Probation: Department charter is retained under specific terms and conditions for improvement for a specified period no longer than a year.
 - Suspension: Temporary suspension of any or all Department rights and privileges for a specified period no longer than a year.
 - Cancellation of charter: The Department charter may be canceled for severe or repeated violations.
- c) The NEC shall adopt procedures for the handling of appeals or complaints.

- Suspension: Temporary suspension of any or all Department rights and privileges for a specified period no longer than a year.
- Cancellation of charter: The Department charter may be canceled for severe or repeated violations.
- c) The NEC shall adopt procedures for the handling of appeals or complaints.

Section 5. Discipline of National Leadership.

- a) NEC may discipline any member of the national leadership which shall include national officers, past national presidents, national executive committee members from all departments, and NEC ratified national committee appointees for violation of the Ethical Code of Conduct as adopted by the NEC.
- b) Disciplinary actions may include: verbal counseling; written or verbal apology; written or verbal censure from the NEC; probation with

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- b) Disciplinary actions may include: verbal counseling; written or verbal apology; written or verbal censure from the NEC; probation with corrective terms that encourage restorative justice; suspension from participating in or exercising voting rights on national committees and or national activities for a defined period of time in compliance with applicable state laws; termination of NEC membership, national appointment, and or national elected position as applicable. Once terminated for cause from the NEC, the member is ineligible to hold future positions of the national leadership; and recommendation to unit for expulsion of membership.

- corrective terms that encourage restorative justice; suspension from participating in or exercising voting rights on national committees and or national activities for a defined period of time in compliance with applicable state laws; termination of NEC membership, national appointment, and or national elected position as applicable. Once terminated for cause from the NEC, the member is ineligible to hold future positions of the national leadership; and recommendation to unit for expulsion of membership.
- c) The NEC shall adopt procedures for the handling of any alleged violation of the Ethical Code of Conduct.
- d) The NEC may temporarily suspend the accused from all or some duties and rights of national activities, pending the disposition of the case, without prior hearing, whenever failure to suspend such duties and rights might reasonably be anticipated to result in loss or damage to property or human life or serious damage to the reputation of the ALA.

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Rationale: Current governing documents have references to "discipline" scattered throughout the Bylaws and Standing Rules. This proposed new Bylaw XI. Discipline captures all aspects of discipline in one location. No substantive changes.

Subsequent Amendment: if adopted this will be a new article XI and all subsequent articles will be renumbered.

Proposed Amendment #12. National Bylaws Article XI. Discipline and Cancellation of Charter				
Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read		

ARTICLE XI

Discipline and Cancellation of Charters Department Charters

Section 1. The National Executive Committee, following the principle of fundamental fairness which includes notice and an opportunity to be heard, may discipline a Department or cancel the charter of a Department for any good and sufficient cause. The process for the discipline of a Department or cancellation of a Department charter shall be as provided in the Standing Rules.

Section 2. Upon cancellation of a Department's charter, the National Executive Committee may authorize agents to take custody of all records, assets, and property of the Department, and to take all necessary steps to close the affairs of the Department. The national organization may act in an administrative role until Units can affiliate with another department.

Section 3. In no event shall the National Organization be required to assume any of the Department's debts.

Unit Charters

ARTICLE XI

Discipline and Cancellation of Charters

Department Charters

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Section 1. The National Executive Committee may cancel a department charter following the disciplinary provisions in these Bylaws.

Section 2. A department requesting to surrender its charter requires a department convention body vote. Cancellation of a department charter will become final upon National Executive Committee approval.

Section 2 3. Upon cancellation of a Department's charter, the National Executive Committee may authorize agents to take custody of all records, assets, and

ARTICLE XI

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Department Charters

Section 1. The National Executive Committee may cancel a department charter following the disciplinary provisions in these Bylaws.

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Section 3. Upon cancellation of a Department's charter, the National Executive Committee may authorize agents to take custody of all records, assets, and property of the Department, and to take all necessary steps to close the affairs of the Department. The national organization may act in an administrative role until Units can affiliate with another department.

Section 4. In no event shall the National Organization be required to assume any of the Department's debts.

Unit Charters

Section 1. Units attached to departments may be disciplined by their Department Executive Committee for any good and sufficient cause. Foreign Units not attached to a department may be disciplined by the National Executive Committee for any good and sufficient cause. Disciplinary action may include censure, probation with corrective terms, or initiating the charter cancellation process in which the National Executive Committee has final authority. Disciplinary action must follow the principles of fundamental fairness, which includes notice and an opportunity to be heard.

Section 2. Cancellation of a Unit charter shall be in order when two (2) or more Units merge, at the request of a Unit, when a Unit ceases to function, or by action of the Department Executive Committee.

Section 3. The National Executive Committee may prescribe rules of procedures to be followed in the cancellation of Unit charters. All rules and procedures shall be handled in a timely manner following the principle of fundamental fairness, which includes notice and an opportunity to be heard,

Section 4. In the event a Unit's charter is canceled without the consent of the Unit, it shall have the right of appeal to the National Executive Committee as

property of the Department, and to take all necessary steps to close the affairs of the Department. The national organization may act in an administrative role until Units can affiliate with another department.

Section 3 4. In no event shall the National Organization be required to assume any of the Department's debts.

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Section 1. The department executive committee may submit their request to the NEC to cancel the charter of a unit as a result of disciplinary action.

Section 2. A unit requesting to surrender its charter requires notification to all members, a unit vote and approval of its

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Section 2. A unit requesting to surrender its charter requires notification to all members, a unit vote and approval of its Department Executive Committee. Cancellation of a unit charter will become final upon National Executive Committee approval.

Section 3. Cancellation of a Unit charter shall be in order when two (2) or more Units merge, or when a Unit ceases to function.

Section 4. The National Executive Committee may prescribe rules of procedures to be followed in the cancellation of Unit charters.

Section 5. In the event a department executive committee submits a Unit's charter for cancellation, without the consent of the Unit, the Unit shall have the right of appeal to the National Executive Committee as provided in the Standing Rules.

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	Section 4 5. In the event a department executive committee submits a Unit's charter is for cancellation, canceled without the consent of the Unit, the Unit shall have the right of appeal to the National Executive Committee as provided in the Standing Rules. Cancellation of a unit charter becomes final upon ratification by the NEC.	

Rationale: Delineates roles of Units, Departments and National as they pertain to charter cancellations. Removes language on discipline as that information has been absorbed into new Bylaw XI. Discipline.

Proposed Amendment #13. National Bylaws Article IX. Unit Organization			
Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read	

Section 1. Those who desire to form a Unit shall apply to the Post to which it will attach and the Department in which it resides as provided in the Standing Rules. Upon receipt of a properly executed charter application from the Department, the Unit charter shall be signed by the National President and National Secretary.

Section 2. The minimum number of members to charter a new unit shall be ten (10) senior members, with the exception of a Department Headquarters Unit that shall have no minimum membership requirement.

Section 3. A Unit shall be given the name, location, and number of The American Legion Post to which it is attached.

Section 4. The qualifications and process for establishing and existing as a Unit in good standing shall be as provided in the Standing Rules.

Section 5. Each Unit of the American Legion Auxiliary shall be responsible for verifying eligibility and deciding its membership, subject to the restrictions of the national governing documents. No person who is a member of an organization which has for its aim the overthrow of the United States

Section 1. Units of the American Legion Auxiliary are separate entities that operate independently as affiliates of the American Legion Auxiliary National Organization. Units shall be governed by their own Unit Constitution and/or Bylaws which shall not conflict with the National Constitution & Bylaws, National Standing Rules, National rules and policies, Department Constitution and Bylaws, or Department rules and policies.

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Government or who subscribes to the principles of any group opposed to our form of government shall be eligible to become or remain a member of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Section 6. All persons handling funds of the Unit shall be bonded by a reputable, solvent bonding and surety company; or shall be covered by fidelity/crime insurance in an adequate amount as determined by the Unit.

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Section 6. All persons handling funds of the Unit shall be bonded by a reputable, solvent bonding and surety company; or shall be covered by fidelity/crime insurance in an adequate amount as determined by the Unit.

Proposed by: National Constitution & Bylaws Committee

Rationale: Clarifying language and organizing unit information into one bylaw. Omitted original section 5 as this language moved into Constitution Article III Eligibility. First paragraph of Standing Rule XI Units, #1 page 50 was moved from the standing rules to come the new Section 1 of this bylaw as it establishes what a unit "is" therefore is better placed in the Bylaws than in the Standing Rules.

Proposed Amendment #14. National Bylaws Article IV, NEC, Section 2 and Standing Rules V. National Executive Committee				
Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read		

STANDING RULES

Amend by:

V. NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

10. The National President, National Vice President, National Secretary, National Treasurer, five (5) National Division Vice Presidents, and two (2) National Executive Committee persons who will be appointed annually by the National President shall comprise the Executive Committee to the National Executive Committee. The purpose of the executive committee to the National Executive Committee to the National Executive Committee shall be: a) to review, research and make recommendations to the NEC on matters requiring NEC action; and b) to address and act on time sensitive matters subject to ratification by the NEC.

BYLAWS

Article IV, Section 2

There shall be an Executive Committee to the National Executive Committee. The purpose of the Executive Committee shall be: 1) to review, research and make recommendations to the NEC on matters requiring NEC action; and 2) to address and act on time sensitive matters subject to ratification by the NEC, except those duties reserved for the Executive Committee in the Bylaws Article V.

STANDING RULES

V. NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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3) The Executive Director shall be hired, disciplined, or terminated by a majority vote

BYLAWS Article IV, Section 2

There shall be an Executive Committee to the National Executive Committee. The purpose of the Executive Committee shall be: 1) to review, research and make recommendations to the NEC on matters requiring NEC action; and 2) to address and act on time sensitive matters subject to ratification by the NEC, except those duties reserved for the Executive Committee in the Bylaws Article V. 3) The Executive Director shall be hired, disciplined, or terminated by a majority vote of the Executive Committee of the National Executive Committee, in accordance with the terms of employment established by the Executive Committee. The Executive Director shall regularly be evaluated by the Executive Committee. In the event of a vacancy in the position of Executive Director, the Executive Committee may name a person to serve in that capacity until a new Executive Director is hired.

The National President, National Vice President, the immediate Past National President, and five (5) National Executive Committee persons, one from each Division, who will be appointed annually by the National President through an application of the Executive Committee of the National Executive Committee, in accordance with the terms of employment established by the Executive Committee. The Executive Director shall regularly be evaluated by the Executive Committee. In the event of a vacancy in the position of Executive Director, the Executive Committee may name a

person to serve in that capacity until a new Executive Director is hired.

The National President, National Vice President, the immediate Past National President, and five (5) National Executive Committee persons, one from each Division, who will be appointed annually by the National President through an application process, and one (1) Past National President named by the Executive Director annually, shall comprise the Executive Committee to the National Executive Committee.

The Executive Director shall be invited to all meetings of the Executive Committee to the National Executive Committee except when the meeting(s) pertains to Executive Director performance.

process, and one (1) Past National President named by the Executive Director annually, shall comprise the Executive Committee to the National Executive Committee.

The Executive Director shall be invited to all meetings of the Executive Committee to the National Executive Committee except when the meeting(s) pertains to Executive Director performance.

Proposed by: Executive Committee to the NEC and National Executive Committee

Rationale:

The reconfiguration of the Executive Committee would increase the participation of NEC members and add year-to-year consistency that is missing in the current structure. The Executive Committee has significant responsibilities that benefit from having committee members with experience and historical knowledge.

The Executive Director evaluation process used for the last five years has highlighted that often the performance survey questions cannot be fairly answered due to the minimal interaction between the Executive Director and the survey respondent. This is not immediately a negative since different volunteer positions interact with different staff members than directly with the Executive Director.

The National Treasurer interacts with the staff Director of Finance and the National Secretary interacts with the Governance and Compliance staff. National Division Vice Presidents interact with Administrative Division staff.

The Executive Director is hired, disciplined, or terminated by a majority vote of the Executive Committee of the National Executive Committee, in accordance with the terms of employment established by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee should be comprised of members who directly interact with the Executive Director and can provide a knowledgeable performance evaluation.

Since the Executive Committee in current configuration only maintains one position from one year to the next, the National Vice President who the following year becomes National President, modifying the committee composition would provide increased consistency and historical knowledge during the evaluation process.

Members of the Executive Committee to the NEC need to be actual members of the NEC as outlined in the governing documents. This means that chairs of certain committees cannot be members of the Executive Committee.

Proposed Amendment #15. National Standing Rules VII. Committees, Long Range Strategic Planning				
Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read		

VII Committees

Special Purpose

Long Range Strategic Planning: The National President may appoint a long range Strategic Planning Committee subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee, comprised of a chairman, National President, National Vice President, National Secretary, National Treasurer, Immediate Past National President, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Chairman, Children & Youth Chairman, and other members at the discretion of the National President, subject to confirmation by the National Executive Committee.

Amend by VII Committees

Special Purpose

Long Range Strategic Planning: The National President may must appoint a long-range Strategic Planning Committee subject to ratification by the National **Executive Committee.** comprised of a chairman, National President, National Vice President, National Secretary, **National Treasurer, Immediate Past** National President, National Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Chairman, National Children & Youth Chairman, five (5) members, one from each Division, a member of the Finance Committee, and the **Executive Director other members at the** discretion of the National President. subject to confirmation by the National **Executive Committee.**

The National Long Range Strategic
Planning Committee shall be comprised of
five (5) members serving staggered fiveyear terms. One (1) member shall be
appointed each year by the National
President to serve a five-year term and may
serve a maximum of two (2) five-year terms
consecutively. No appointee having served
two (2) terms on the committee shall be
eligible for reappointment. The chairman
shall be appointed annually and serve as

VII Committees

Special Purpose

Long Range Strategic Planning: The National President must appoint a Long-Range Strategic Planning Committee subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee.

The National Long Range Strategic Planning Committee shall be comprised of five (5) members serving staggered five-year terms. One (1) member shall be appointed each year by the National President to serve a five-year term and may serve a maximum of two (2) five-year terms consecutively. No appointee having served two (2) terms on the committee shall be eligible for reappointment. The chairman shall be appointed annually and serve as one (1) of the five (5) members. The Executive Director and a Past National President serving on the National Finance Committee shall be additional members of said committee with voice, but without vote.

The National Long Range Strategic Planning Committee shall meet no less than quarterly at the call of National President. The National Vice President, National Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Chairman, and National Children & Youth Chairman may attend as guests for the purpose of observing to gain one (1) of the five (5) members. The Executive Director and a Past National President serving on the National Finance Committee shall be additional members of said committee with voice, but without vote.

The National Long Range Strategic Planning Committee shall meet no less than quarterly at the call of National President. The National Vice President, National Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Chairman, and National Children & Youth Chairman may attend as guests for the purpose of observing to gain knowledge of planning strategically for the organization's future.

The purpose of the National Long Range Strategic Planning Committee is to assist the National Executive Committee with the responsibilities for the organization's mission, vision and strategic direction.

Long Range Strategic Planning Committee shall:

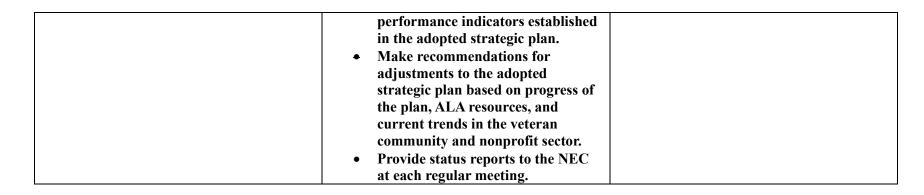
- Develop an effective strategic planning process, and three-to-fiveyear strategic plan with measurable goals and time targets.
- Provide oversight of the implementation of the adopted strategic plan.
- Monitoring the organization's performance against key

knowledge of planning strategically for the organization's future.

The purpose of the National Long Range Strategic Planning Committee is to assist the National Executive Committee with the responsibilities for the organization's mission, vision and strategic direction.

Long Range Strategic Planning Committee shall:

- Develop an effective strategic planning process, and three-to-fiveyear strategic plan with measurable goals and time targets.
- Provide oversight of the implementation of the adopted strategic plan.
- Monitoring the organization's performance against key performance indicators established in the adopted strategic plan.
- Make recommendations for adjustments to the adopted strategic plan based on progress of the plan, ALA resources, and current trends in the veteran community and nonprofit sector.
- Provide status reports to the NEC at each regular meeting.



Proposed by: Pam Ray, National Vice President, Dr. Coral Grout, National VA&R Chair, Dr. Lisa Chaplin, National Children & Youth Chair, Linda Boone, National Secretary.

Rationale:

This proposal only addresses the first phase of Strategic Planning, establishing a committee that will research a variety of factors that could influence the focus of the ALA and develop a draft strategic plan that would be presented to the NEC for review and adoption. The entire NEC/board should understand and have a role in major decisions about the organization's strategic direction, programs and services. This is often not feasible if a board is large, or its meetings are consumed with routine matters.

Therefore, this may be a sound reason to have a Strategic Planning Committee. The NEC/board may be too large for thorough strategic discussions. The committee should provide a useful forum for NEC/board members, staff, volunteer leaders, and grassroots members to share views on strategic issues. Strategic Plans usually are developed over several years and revisited annually to determine what adjustments need to be made based on current information. There is no intent to engage an outside firm to lead the process. This will be the responsibility of the committee who reports to the Board.

Strategic Plans have many parts and for a membership organization like the ALA requires plans and action items to be assigned to volunteers and staff. There can be overlapping responsibilities that require participation from both volunteers and staff to obtain the goal. It is critical that volunteer leadership and senior level staff participate in the development of the goals and implementation plans.

In 2021 this ad hoc committee was deactivated and there has been no organized focus on the organization's strategic direction by the Board/NEC or staff. To provide growth opportunities and continually evaluate the effectiveness of our programs we need to have an organized process to provide information and direction. A Strategic Planning Committee can provide this information for the NEC/board to take action as needed.

Each National President will need to consider potential committee members experience and knowledge with Strategic Planning for placement on the committee.

Financial support for this committee and volunteer leadership would be for one (1) in person, two (2) day meetings with staff per year. The chair would attend any in person NEC meeting to provide a report. The entire committee would meet quarterly at a minimum via ZOOM. There could be expenses to purchase reports or data that would assist with developing plans, which would also be planned for in the budget.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY RESOLUTION #1

SUBMITTED BY:	American Legion Auxiliary Department of Vermont
SUBJECT:	Resolution for The American Legion to change eligibility requirements for the ALA
DATE:	June 21, 2025
RESOLUTION NO	
	(Assigned by Resolutions Committee)

Whereas, The American Legion Auxiliary mission promotes service and support to veterans, military, and their families; and

Whereas, The American Legion Auxiliary is a diverse and inclusive organization; and

Whereas, The American Legion Auxiliary seeks to be an organization inclusive of anyone who supports veterans, military, and their families; and

Whereas, Eligibility for membership in the American Legion Auxiliary is determined by The American Legion; and

Whereas, The American Legion changed their governing documents to allow all spouses to become members of the American Legion Auxiliary in 2019; and

Whereas, The American Legion Auxiliary changed its Constitution in 2019 to update without American Legion Auxiliary governing board action should The American Legion further change its Constitution regarding eligibility for the American Legion Auxiliary; and

Whereas, the most recently revised IRS regulation for 501(c)(19) organizations states https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/veterans-organizations: A veterans' post or organization must meet the following requirements to be exempt under section 501(c)(19):

- 1. It must be organized in the United States or any of Its possessions
- 2. At least 75 percent of its members must be past or present members of the United States Armed Forces
- 3. At least 97.5 percent of its members must be:
 - o present or former members of the United States Armed Forces,
 - cadets (including only students in college or university ROTC programs or at Armed Services academies) or
 - spouses, widows, widowers, ancestors, or lineal descendants of individuals referred to in the first or second bullet
- 4. It must be operated exclusively for one or more of the following purposes:
 - o to promote the social welfare of the community (e.g., to promote the common good and general welfare of the people of the community
 - o to assist disabled and needy war veterans and members of the United States Armed Forces and their dependents and the widows and orphans of deceased veterans
 - to provide entertainment, care, and assistance to hospitalized veterans or members of the United States Armed Forces
 - to carry on programs to perpetuate the memory of deceased veterans and members of the United
 States Armed Forces and comfort their survivors
 - o to conduct programs for religious, charitable, scientific, literary or educational purposes
 - o to sponsor or participate in activities of a patriotic nature
 - o to provide insurance benefits for members or their dependents or
 - o to provide social and recreational activities for members

5. No part of its net earnings may inure to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual; and

Whereas, the most recently revised IRS regulation for 501 (c) (19) organizations states https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/other-non-profits/veterans-organizations: An organization may be exempt under section 501(c)(19) as an auxiliary unit or society of a veterans' post or organization if it meets the following requirements:

- 1. It is affiliated with, and organized in accordance with the bylaws and regulations of, a veterans' post or organization described above
- 2. At least 75 percent of its members are veterans, spouses of veterans, or related to a veteran within two degrees of consanguinity (i.e., grandparent, brother, sister, grandchild represent the most distant allowable relationships)
- 3. All members are either members of a veterans' post or organizations described above, or spouses of a member of such post or organization, or are related to a member of such post or organization within two degrees of consanguinity
- 4. No part of its net earning inures to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual; and

now therefore, be it

Resolved, the American Legion Auxiliary National Convention delegates assembled in Tampa, Florida, August 22-28, 2025 request that The American Legion change its governing documents to allow membership in the American Legion Auxiliary for all currently, non-eligible grandparents, parents, siblings, spouse, natural and adopted descendants, regardless of gender, related to The American Legion eligible member within two degrees of consanguinity; and be it finally

Resolved, Should The American Legion change its governing documents to allow membership in the American Legion Auxiliary for all currently non-eligible grandparents, parents, siblings, spouse, natural and adopted descendants, regardless of gender, related to a The American Legion eligible member, the American Legion Auxiliary shall immediately allow into American Legion Auxiliary membership grandparents, parents, siblings, spouses, natural and adopted descendants to The American Legion eligible member within two degrees of consanguinity.

Rationale: The 2019 change to the American Legion Auxiliary's Constitution to be inclusive and diversify our organization, providing eligibility to the spouses of Veterans has proven to be a positive decision. It has however, left a portion of the family & descendants of the Veterans who would like eligibility to support their Veterans ineligible due to gender, for any of our American Legion family organizations (i.e., a Veterans brother, father, or grandfather). While the sister, mother and grandmother of a Veteran have eligibility with the American Legion Auxiliary these male relatives remain ineligible for any American Legion organization. Changing the ALA's Constitution to allow for the inclusion of these male relatives would grow our membership and strengthen our organization to support our Veterans for the future.

There has been much confusion with membership eligibility and IRS regulations, especially in the last decade as the IRS has continually amended regulations and conducted more audits of non-profit organizations. Previously, protecting traditions and the non-profit status of our organization, the American Legion Family membership chose to maintain strict eligibility rules above the minimum requirements of the IRS regulations. While this adherence to strict enforcement of the regulations remains an important priority, creating an inclusive and diverse environment to execute our mission is significant to increasing our membership. Following the IRS regulations and expanding the eligibility of our membership eliminates previously identified barriers that will make our organization better and stronger to ultimately enhance our support for our veterans, the military, and their families.

Routing: Committee Chairman Name and Signature Recommend Not Recommend Recommend With Amendment Recommend With Amendment Recommend Not Recommend Recommend Recommend Amendment Recommend Recommend Recommend Recommend As

RESOLUTION #2

SUBMITTED BY: American Legion Auxiliary National Poppy Committee

SUBJECT: REQUEST – TAL NEC Expand Poppy Fund Eligibility

DATE: February 28 2025

RESOLUTION NO. ______(Assigned by Resolutions Committee)

Whereas, since 2014, The American Legion NEC has designated approved use of Poppy funds must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- The rehabilitation of veterans honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces after April 6, 1917.
- The welfare of the families of veterans of the above-named period.
- The rehabilitation of hospitalized military service personnel returning home and awaiting discharge who require treatment in service hospitals.
- The welfare of veterans, active military personnel, and the families of veterans and active military personnel of the above-named period where financial and medical need is evident.
- For the purpose of poppy kits and supplies used to make symbolic poppies and poppy items that will be distributed for donations to the Poppy Fund.

Whereas, The above-listed criteria limit the use of poppy funds to only active military personnel and their families, thus excluding National Guard and Reserve servicemembers and their families; and

Whereas, National Guard and Reserve service personnel and their families also face both financial and medical hardships; and

Whereas, The majority of our membership live within closer proximity to National Guard and Reserve units than to active military installations: therefore, be it

Resolved, That the American Legion Auxiliary National Convention delegates request that The American Legion expand eligibility criteria for the use of Poppy Funds to include members of the National Guard and Reserve and their families of the above-named period where financial and medical need is eviden and be it

Resolved, That the criteria for approved use of Poppy funds read as follows:

- The rehabilitation of veterans honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces after April 6, 1917.
- The welfare of the families of veterans of the above-named period.
- The rehabilitation of hospitalized military service personnel returning home and awaiting discharge who require treatment in service hospitals.
- The welfare of veterans, military personnel, and the families of veterans and all military personnel of the above-named period where financial and medical need is evident.
- For the purpose of poppy kits and supplies used to make symbolic poppies and poppy items that will be distributed for donations to the Poppy Fund.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY RESOLUTION #3

SUBMITTED BY:	ED BY: Valerie E Hardy, 2025 ALA Girls Nation Chair Resolution to Recognize ALA Girls State Leaders					
SUBJECT:						
DATE:	June 8, 2025					
RESOLUTION NO						
		solutions Committee)				
Whereas, leadership progra	Whereas, American Legion Auxiliary Girls State leaders work throughout the year to provide an exemplary eadership program focusing on democracy and civic engagement and					
Whereas, young leaders ac	Whereas, ALA Girls State leaders volunteer their time, energy, and enthusiasm to empower and educate young leaders across their departments and					
Whereas, military and com	ALA Girls State leaders promote Americanism, ALA programs, service to our veterans, active duty ommunities during their sessions; and					
Whereas, active citizens; no	ALA Girls State progra ow, therefore, be it	ms have impacted o	ver 7,000 young lead	lers this year to become more		
Resolved, ovation.	That we recognize the hard work and dedication of our ALA Girls State leaders with a standing					
Routing:						
Committee Chair	Name and Signature					
		Recommend \square	Not Recommend	Recommend with Amendment \square		
		Recommend \square	Not Recommend	Recommend with Amendment \square		
		Recommend	Not Recommend □	Recommend with Amendment		